GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2355
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
ABNORMAL INCREASE IN TEMPERATURE
SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several parts of the country particularly Andhra Pradesh recorded unprecedented high temperature during the summer of 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; (

(c) whether any study has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the finding thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The normal maximum temperature over northwest and central India and parts of peninsula during May ranges from 41(C to 43(C. When the actual maximum temperatures are above normal by 4(C or more, they are referred to as ` heat wave`. Spells of such abnormally high maximum temperatures occur during summer months in different parts of the country. They develop generally when strong northerly/northwesterly dry winds blow over a place. Regions extending from Rajasthan to coastal Orissa and Andhra Pradesh across Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are prone to heat waves. During 2003 heat waves conditions in Andhra Pradesh prevailed for a longer duration of 27 days from 16th May to 11th June, whereas in normal cases, it last only for about a week or so. A cyclonic storm developed over the Bay of Bengal and remained over the sea for about 10 days (10-19 May).It had a prolonged influence on the flow pattern over the country even after its dissipation. This caused the dry and hot northwesterly winds to blow over the peninsula leading to heat wave conditions over Andhra Pradesh and its prevalence for unusually longer duration. The highest maximum temperature recorded in Andhra Pradesh this year during summer was 48.7(C recorded on 30th May at Vijayawada (Airport).